

# The Avocet

Volume XV, Number 8

October, 1968

## MUSHROOM and OTHER FUNGI

Thursday, October 17, 8:00 p.m.

Homestead High School  
Room 5, Bldg. C

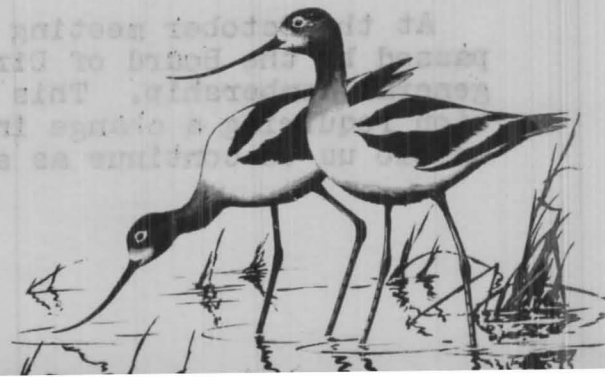
Homestead Road  
Cupertino

Mr. Leonard Good, a member of our Society, will give this interesting program on "Mushroom and Other Fungi in the Forests of the Lower Peninsula". He works as a technical administrator with a large Bay Area electronics firm, but spends as much time as possible outdoors. Besides gardening, he hikes in the local parks and surrounding countryside. He has been interested in photography for many years, and his subjects range from mountains to macro photography of flowers and insects. Born in England, he has lived in the U.S. for 20 years on both coasts and in the middle west. Besides the above subject, he will have a short dividend for us. Come and see!

See page 60 for directions to our new central meeting place!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Oct. 5, Sat. - Coyote Hills Regional Park in Fremont as guests of the Sierra Club. Details on page 59.  
10:00 am
- Oct. 7, Mon. - "Four Seasons" by Wilfred E. Gray at San Jose State College. Directions for parking on page 59.  
8:00 pm
- Oct. 8, Tues. - Bird Discussion Group at Dr. Evelyn Case's, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga, tel. 867-4748. Choose your most interesting bird for this session.  
10:00 am
- Oct. 9, Wed. - Natural Bridges State Park, Leader Lloyd Case.  
9:00 am Meet at parking area by entrance of park. Bring lunch.
- Oct. 9, Wed. - Board Meeting at Kay McCann's, 783 Garland Dr., Palo Alto, tel. 327-4138.  
8:00 pm
- Oct. 10, Thur. - "A Dinner for Two Parks" at Pavilion Hall, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. Details on page 59.  
6:30 pm
- Oct. 13, Sun. - Moss Landing field trip, leader Mrs. Viola Anderson.  
9:00 am Meet at Jetty Road, which is on west side of highway nine miles south of Watsonville. It is just north of Yacht Harbor near Elkhorn Slough. Bring lunch.
- Oct. 17, Thur. - General Meeting - details above.
- Oct. 23, Wed. - Foothill Park field trip, leader Kay McCann, tel. 327-4138. Meet at entrance of park on Page Mill Road.  
9:00 am
- Oct. 26, Sat. - Palo Alto Yacht Harbor, leader to be announced.  
9:00 am Meet at duck pond at end of Embarcadero Road.
- Nov. 17, Sun. - Gray Lodge Refuge, leaders Dr. Joe Greenberg & Russ G.  
9:00 am This is advance notice on this long distance trip. Mark your schedule and save this date. Details next month.



President's Message: Environment and Involvement, our Concern

Our Audubon Society speaks to one of life's major concerns: "How can we maintain a pleasant wholesome environment for ourselves and future generations?" Many of us have joined this society hoping to find some of the answers to this major question. We read the Audubon magazine, enjoy its pictures and are stimulated to read other books and magazines. Do we share our discoveries in the Audubon magazine with our friends and neighbors?

Our four field trips a month take us to points where birds and flowers and interesting geological formations can be found. These are opportunities to have a few moments of observing nature unharnessed, of opening the eyes and the ears, to feel the sun and the wind, and to smell the flowers or the bay. One needs no vocabulary to appreciate these excursions for these are moments for feeling, for seeing, for hearing, for silence, for awareness. Yet, for those who must have a name for these things, our leaders are most helpful. For the more experienced there are opportunities to become field trip leaders.

Our monthly programs will be held at 8:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. Our first: October 17th at Homestead High School in Cupertino. Our members and guests will be entertained by talks and pictures presented by other members and guest speakers. Here is an opportunity to bring your friends to an Audubon meeting and introduce them to our program. For those with pictures who wish to be part of a program there is the opportunity to volunteer by contacting Harriet Mundy.

For those desiring a more active role, the Conservation and Education Committees offer opportunities for community involvement. The Conservation Committee keeps abreast of current legislation. It also keeps informed on critical conservation needs, both local and national, and notifies our membership of these needs. If you are interested in serving on this committee, contact Lloyd Case or Tony Look. One does not have to be a member of the committee to write your legislator regarding the many conservation issues of the day.

The Education Committee presents Audubon aids in natural science to many groups both young and old. There is room for more members to help with this program.

We hope that you will find a level of involvement in our Society that will help maintain a pleasant, wholesome environment.

Howard Wolcott, President

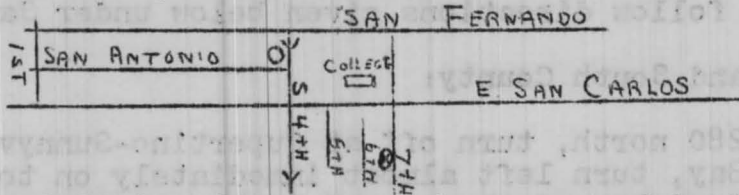
**ADDENDUM:**

At the October meeting an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation passed by the Board of Directors will be presented for approval to the general membership. This amendment is to comply with recent legislation requiring a change in our welfare exemption clause. This will enable us to continue as a tax-exempt agency.

**AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS:** Be sure to catch our first film of the year! In "Four Seasons", award-winning Wilfred Gray portrays a year in British Columbia, beginning with spring on the coast and ending with winter among the snow-embossed peaks of the high Canadian Rockies. Red-necked grebes, snow geese, sharp-tailed grouse, sockeye salmon, bear, deer and a host of other wildlife residents and visitors are shown in colorful close-up sequences.

This film will be shown at the Morris Daily Auditorium of San Jose State College on October 7 at 8:00 p.m. There will be no films this year at the Palo Alto High School because of renovations in the auditorium. For those Palo Altons who have difficulty in parking in the college area, here are two possibilities.

- = PARKING LOT
- ⊗ = HIGH-RISE PARKING



**Coyote Hills Regional Park - Sat., Oct. 5,** sponsored by Sierra Club. Directions: Head east on Dumbarton Bridge, after passing through toll plaza, turn left onto Jarvis Ave., turn left at 1st traffic light onto Newark Blvd. After 1 mile turn west at Stanford Research Institute sign onto Patterson Ranch Rd. (no street sign). If you cross the concrete bridge over Alameda Cr., you've gone too far. Parking lot 1 is about 1.5 miles from the turnoff and several hundred yards on the near side of SRI Lab. Do not use the SRI Lab parking lot. Schedule: 10:00 a.m. - assemble at parking lot 1. 10:30 - 1 mile walk to Indian mound excavations with Mr. W. Henn, Curator, as guide. 11:30 - 2-3 mile walk near marsh & bay with Mr. Ron Russo, naturalist, as guide. 1:30 - lunch. 2:30 - SRI Bio-Sonar Lab where Dr. T. Poulter, Director, will discuss Lab's work with seals. 3:30 - end of tour.

**"A Dinner for Two Parks"** - Big Basin Redwoods and Castle Rock State Park. Sponsored by The Sempervirens Fund, P.O.Box 9294, Stanford 94305  
 Cocktails 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:30 p.m.  
 Tickets \$7.50 R S V P by October 5, 1968

Dr. Roman Vishniac will appear as featured speaker at this dinner. Born in Russia 70 years ago, Dr. Vishniac has spent his life in science and art. He holds doctorates in Zoology and in Oriental Art with a degree in Medicine. Currently he is completing a series of films for the National Science Foundation, called "Living Biology". Dr. Vishniac has opened up the fascinating world of micro-photography to millions of Americans by his appearances on NBC-TV. His color presentation, "The Big Little World of Roman Vishniac" was so popular when sponsored by the Eastman Kodak Co. that it had to be repeated. The color and excitement of his artistic and scientific motion picture created tremendous interest in the relatively unknown world populated by tiny protozoa. Whatever he shows, he tells with enthusiasm that transfers to the audience. See front cover for date and place.

Directions to Homestead High School

This year we are striving for an integrated Society, after years of having meetings in alternate months at separate locations. This year a central location, a nice room, and we'll have coffee and cookies. If you read the directions following, which have been cased, you will have no trouble finding us. The doors at Room 5, Bldg. C, will be open at 7:30 p.m., and the program will begin promptly at 8:00.

Harriet Mundy, Program Chairman



Directions to Homestead High School - (continued)

From North County take whichever route is most convenient for you:

1. South on Bayshore, turn right onto Route 85, take Homestead Road exit, turn left on Homestead Road and proceed south and turn into school parking lot just before the first light.
2. Foothill Expressway, turn off left at Homestead Road and proceed as above.
3. Route 280, turn off at Cupertino-Sunnyvale exit. Turn left toward the Bay and follow directions given below under San Jose.

From San Jose and South County:

Take Route 280 north, turn off at Cupertino-Sunnyvale exit, go toward the Bay, turn left almost immediately on to Homestead Road, proceed to just beyond the second light and turn into the school parking lot.

From Los Gatos/Saratoga Area:

Take Route 17, turn north on 280 and follow San Jose directions; or, take the old Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road to Homestead Road, turn left and follow San Jose directions.

GIFT FOR THE SOCIETY LIBRARY



Mrs. Vail of Monte Sereno has generously presented to the Society's Library 12 original editions published by the Smithsonian Institute of Bent's Life Histories. These volumes are in good condition, with some pages still uncut. Members are invited to look them over. Also available at the library, at the home of the Cases, are the checklists of the Santa Clara County birds showing relative population density. This is a great assistance to new and old birders alike.

WELCOME to New Members!

Mrs. A.H. Bell, 24 Fairview Ave., Los Gatos 95030  
Mrs. John P. Bunker, 672 Foot Hill Rd., Stanford 94305  
Mr.&Mrs. Walter Hartinger & Family, 16155 Jacaranda Way, Los Gatos 95030  
Mr. L.E. Moses, Sequoia Hall, Stanford 94305  
John E. Poole, 7647 Squirewood Way, San Jose 95129

Caroline Davis, Membership Chairman

Man and the California Condor by Ian McMillan

If you haven't read this devastating commentary on man and his handling of a threatened species, you should. I read this very readable book in one fevered sitting and my blood hasn't cooled yet. Such blood-boiling incidents as this make it hard to put down: "--on the opening day of deer season --. In receiving a campfire permit I asked the young official in charge of the station if he knew of any laws protecting hawks and eagles and other large birds in the National Forest. He replied he didn't know of any such law." Be sure to have Carl Koford's "California Condor" handy when you sail through this book. They go hand in hand; for way back in 1953 Koford recommended for Condor protection the "education" of principal groups within or near the range of Condors: including, of course, Forest Service rangers etc.

Emelie Curtis

A Look towards Conservation



REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK

The present bill before the Senate provides for a 58,000 acre Redwood National Park including three State Parks. These would be Jedidiah Smith, Prairie Creek and Mill Creek; it would provide 28 miles of ocean frontage from Crescent City to Dry Lagoon, including Gold Beach of Prairie Creek State Park. Redwood Creek drainage would be within the park, including part of the Emerald Mile, but not in the depth called for by the Sierra Club's larger park bill; The bill does provide for two historic first in park legislation.

The first concerns the transfer of title for the private property to the United States Government. The moment President Johnson signs the Park Bill title passes to the federal government. The property owner will be paid 6% interest until settlement can be made.

The second provision of the Bill concerns the settlement. If it is necessary to take the case to a court procedure, it must not be in a local court, but must take place in the Appeals Court of Northern California. As can be seen, this is a most important feature of Park legislation.

Other Legislation -

While Congress was slow in passing conservation legislation, the final tally should place this session as one of the greatest conservation sessions. North Cascades, A Scenic Rivers Bill, Biscayne Bay and Flaming Gorge should all receive favorable bills before adjournment.

North Coast Water -

The complicated problem of exporting water from Northern California to our southern neighbors is receiving renewed interest. The harnessing of living, picturesque streams of the Eel, Trinity and Klamath conjectures a grim picture which we would face until eternity. The other side of the coin shows that sufficient flow of fresh water must pass through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to hold back the salt water intrusion into farm lands. The answer - it would seem that desalination must be urgently developed and also the secondary streams of Northern California can be routed towards the Delta, thereby saving our great scenic water courses for the Creator's intentions.

The matter reached a fitting climax recently when the Los Angeles Times ran a feature article and carried an editorial proclaiming the Dos Rios Dam on the middle fork of the Eel River was worthy of reconsideration. The article even featured human <sup>VALUES</sup> involved in the flooding of Round Valley and the loss of important wildlife ranges. We hope the power of the press, in this case, helps stay the Corps of Engineers.

Tony Look, Conservation Chairman



California Birds



by Russ Greenberg

In the past month, much of the attention of birders has been focused on pelagic birds. It is now the aftermath of two very successful boat trips, and with the October Monterey boat trip coming up, it excites the imagination to think about these enigmatic birds.

The first of the two Monterey trips, on September 6, produced large flocks of New Zealand shearwaters, three Skuas and four Xantus' or Craveri's murrelets. The best bird was a Wilson's petrel. There

have been 5 previous records, including a bird seen last October off Monterey.

The annual Labor Day boat trip was held the thirteenth this year. The trip went 90 miles to the Cortez Banks, where Cook's petrel have been collected. There were very few pelagics out that far, but there were many migrants, including four unidentified sparrows, an Orange-crowned and Black-throated gray warbler, a Brewer's Blackbird and two Redstarts (one was captured and died). All the birds were emaciated and undoubtedly perished as thousands must.

As in July, Red-billed Tropicbirds were seen around San Clemente Island. Three were found and all were adults. There is a strong possibility that these birds are breeding there. All birds seen, including the nine birds in July, have been very close to the island and the one bird collected was a male in breeding condition.

Three Craveri's murrelets were seen and one was collected a week earlier. This bird was unrecorded for fifty years off California. But since the first one was recorded three years ago, there have been five birds found off San Diego and a couple of possible birds off Monterey.

It is hard to know what is on the ocean, especially with alcids and petrels which are very hard to identify. When you see a Leach's petrel you can only assume it is that and not one of the other large white-rumped petrels like Harcourt's.

Vagrants have begun to arrive. In San Diego there have already been Painted Redstart, Clay-colored sparrow, Ruff and Rose-breasted grosbeaks.

Guy McCaskie found five Northern Waterthrushes and five Redstarts at Death Valley.

A Semi-palmated Sandpiper was collected by Vern Yaden at the Carmel River mouth. Another was banded on the Farallone Islands. These are the first records for the fall.

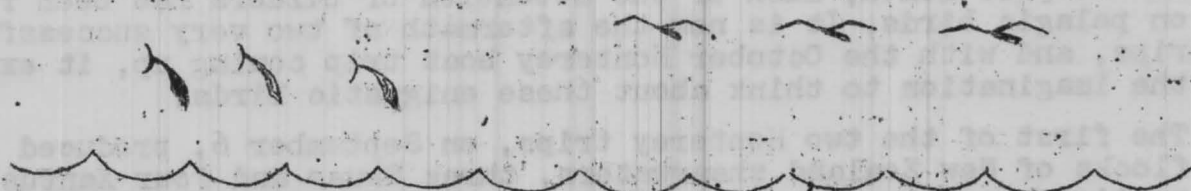
Late, but significant: A Bar-tailed Godwit was collected at Humboldt Bay by Dr. Stanley Harris in July.

An Orchard oriole was found at the south end of the Salton Sea.

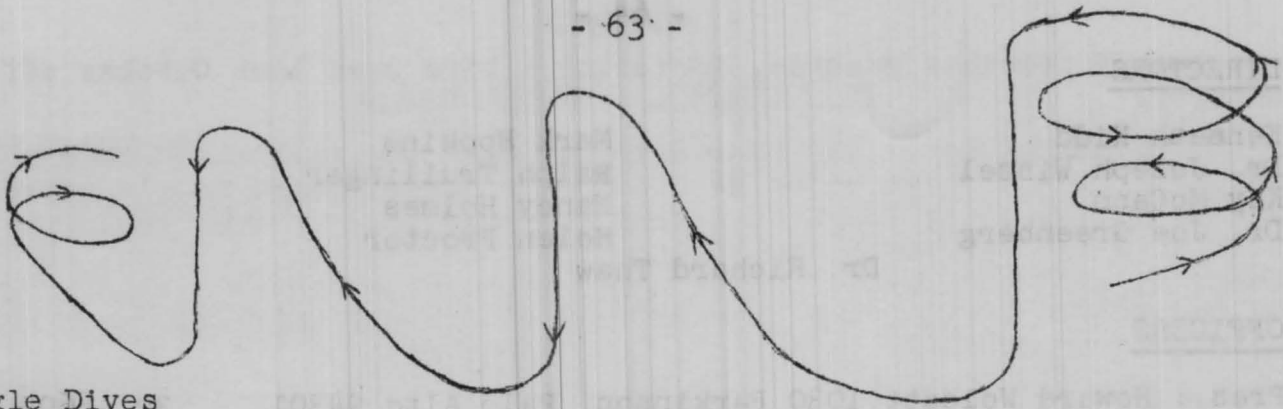
A possible Mourning warbler was collected at Deep Springs. Dave Desante measured this Orpornis and keyed it out to this species.

There are now two adult Little-blue herons at San Rafael. And there are two Reddish egrets north of San Diego.

Late September and early October are good times to check for vagrants along the coast. Look amongst the warbler for the always possible eastern warbler. Blackpolls, Tennessees, Waterthrush and Redstart are the most likely. Also look among the Vireos, flycatchers and sparrows for the many possible vagrant species. As for where to look - Point Reyes, Rodeo Lagoon and Monterey are the standards, but you may stumble across your own place.







### Eagle Dives

How can one fail to thrill to the sight of an eagle performing a dive! Most people, even those living in eagle country, have never seen an eagle, much less an eagle diving. The more observant and interested have perhaps counted themselves fortunate to have seen an eagle circling high in the blue and, even more, to have experienced the elation of viewing a distant performance of tumbling, a dark speck descending and ascending an invisible roller coaster. But the real eagle "addict", who seeks out its pristine haunts and willingly devotes hours at a sitting scanning an empty sky, will be rewarded with many variations of the "dive", some within 500 feet of the observer. There is the quick, shallow dive performed in a long series and strung out over miles, a happy manner of proceeding from one place to another -- usually after a long sitting on the nest. There is the slightly deeper, but still progressive, dive toward an eagle intruder, "This is my territory, begone!" dive. And then there is the exuberant, poetic dive executed at nesting time. It may be performed before or after copulation or perhaps after the egg is laid or hatched. The cock generally performs these dives at the nesting site in view of the hen, and may occasionally be joined in a dive or two by the hen, both diving simultaneously. There is usually a certain amount of wind for these dives, rather than a still, calm condition. The eagle circles to a fairly high elevation, starting his first perpendicular descent simply by folding his great wings and tilting earthward. The dive is very straight and swift. He opens his wings to a sail ever so close to the treetops, perhaps deep in a canyon. Then he flaps hard in a sharp ascent, closing his wings just before the apex of the curve is reached. Inertia carries him to the crest and his body tilts slowly, at one point appearing almost to be pinned to the sky, and plummets straight earthward again. One can almost hear the rush of air! Then a glide and hard flapping skyward again and perhaps a complete graceful upward arc to the zenith until he is upside down and the next dive begun that way, quite reversed. These extremely deep dives are apparently exhausting and three such dives in succession is the general case.

However, slightly shallower dives performed with continuing loss of altitude, thus reducing the hard ascent, may continue for as long as half an hour! The perched hen often calls a resounding Kwuak! Kwauk! Kwauk! during or before her mate's performance. Perhaps she enjoys aerial acrobatics as much as the eagle "addict".

Emelie Curtis



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AVOCET

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